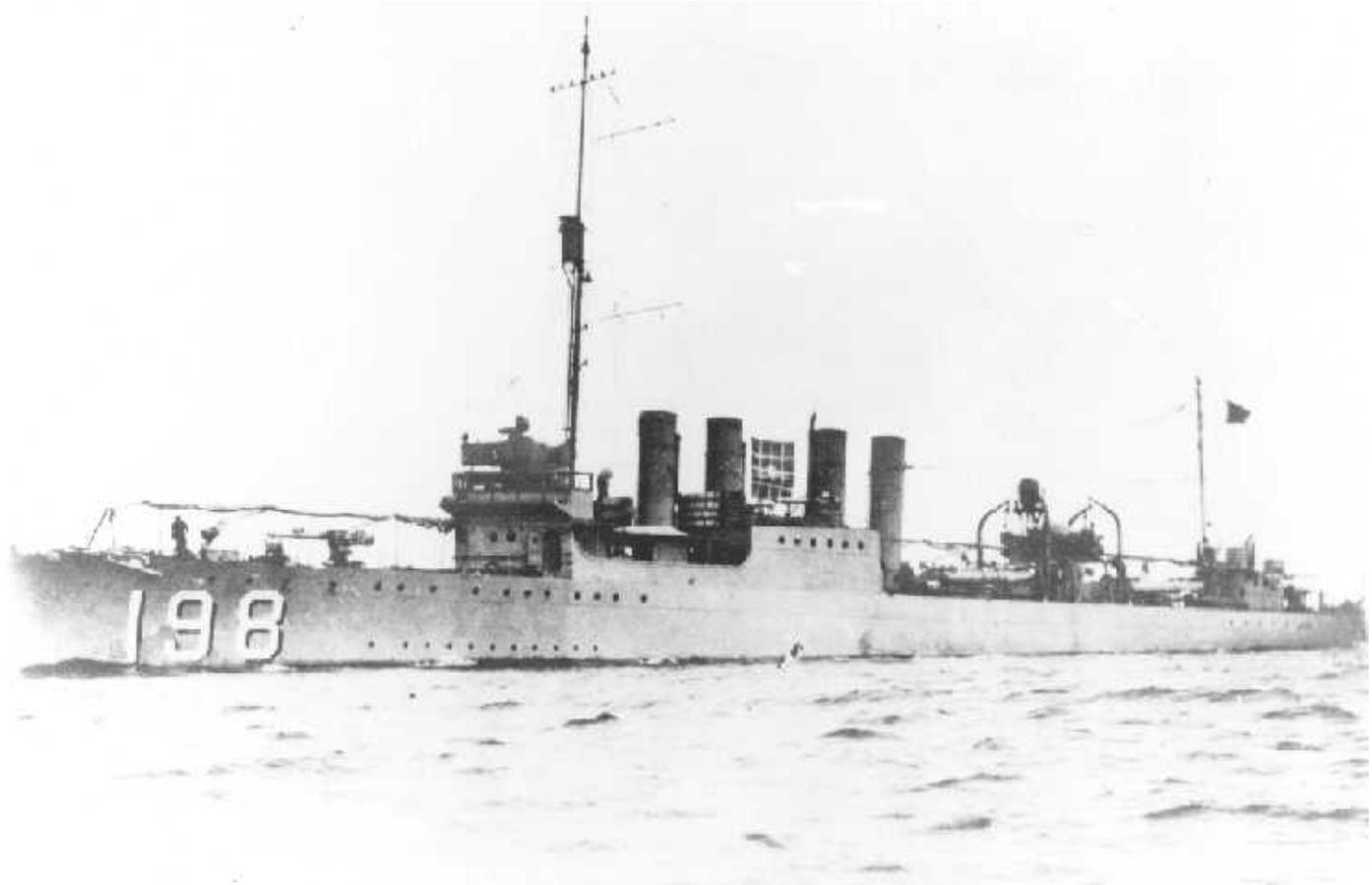


Herndon

(CG-17)



Photograph of USS *Herndon* in US Navy service

Built: Newport News, VA
Commissioned (USN): 14 Sep 1920
Acquired: 13 Sep 1930
Commissioned (USCG): 7 Mar 1931
Decommissioned: 28 May 1934
Displacement: 1,190 tons
Dimensions: 314' 5" overall x 31' 9" x 9'10" draft
Machinery: Geared turbines, 2 screws, 26,500 hp, 35 knots
Complement: 101 (USN)
Armament: 5-4"/50 (USN)

Design and Service

A total of thirty-one Navy destroyers were lent to the Coast Guard for the enforcement of Prohibition. The vessels ranged from the prewar 742-ton "flivvers" to the postwar four-stack flush deckers like *Herndon*. Adapting these vessels to service was thought to be less costly than building new ships. The wartime service and exceedingly poor condition of earlier destroyer classes often required nearly a year of reconditioning before they were seaworthy. The flush deckers, on the other hand, were in much better condition. Not having had wartime service, they were more quickly reconditioned for anti-bootlegging patrols.

These vessels were also by far the largest and most sophisticated vessels ever operated by the service. Trained personnel were nearly nonexistent. Congress authorized hundreds of new enlistees. It was these inexperienced men that generally made up the crews of these vessels. All were capable of over 25 knots, an advantage in the rum-chasing business, but they were easily outmaneuvered by smaller boats. As a result, the destroyers' mission was to picket the larger supply ships ("mother ships") and prevent them from off-loading their cargo onto smaller, speedier contact boats.

Operational History

3 Mar 1931 Assigned to Division III, Destroyer Force, Boston, MA.

7 Mar 1931 Commissioned at Philadelphia Navy Yard.

12 Mar 1931 Arrived at Boston Navy Yard.

22 May 1933 Headquarters authorized permanent change of station to New London, CT.

7 Jun 1933 Arrived and reported for duty in New London.

Cuban Expedition

7 Sep 1933 Discontinued target practice at Hampton Roads, VA and left for Key West, FL

9 Sep 1933 Arrived in Key West for duty with the Navy.

16 Sep 1933 Arrived at Cardenas, Cuba.

31 Oct 1933 Left Nueva Gerona, Cuba, for Key West, FL

1 Nov 1933 Arrived in Key West.

6 Nov 1933 Released from duty with the Navy. Headquarters directed a return to duty with Eastern Area dispatch to Commander, Destroyer Squadron, directs.

28 May 1934 Decommissioned and returned to USN
